

104TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 3490

To amend title 18, United States Code, to reform Federal prisons.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 16, 1996

Mr. TATE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to reform Federal  
prisons.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND FINDINGS.**

4       (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5       “Federal Prison Reform Act of 1996”.

6       (b) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

7               (1) criminals have become an increasing threat  
8       to our personal safety;

9               (2) law-abiding citizens feel less secure and  
10       more afraid because of the threat of crime, especially  
11       violent crime;

1           (3) unless criminals face serious consequences  
2       for their actions, they will continue to threaten our  
3       communities;

4           (4) criminals should pay dearly for violating our  
5       laws and threatening our communities;

6           (5) Federal prisons must enforce real punish-  
7       ment by ending the use of amenities, such as exer-  
8       cise equipment, cable television, and pool tables; and

9           (6) prison incarceration should focus on the de-  
10      velopment of a meaningful work ethic through hard  
11      labor and stress the importance of responsibility,  
12      self-control, discipline, and respect for law abiding  
13      Americans.

14   **SEC. 2. PRISON REFORM.**

15       (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 301 of title 18, United  
16   States Code, is amended by adding at the end the follow-  
17   ing:

18   **“§ 4014. Federal prison standards**

19       “(a) EFFECT OF OUTSIDE ACCREDITATION STAND-  
20   ARDS.—Each Federal facility for the confinement of per-  
21   sons convicted of offenses against the United States shall  
22   insofar as practical observe the standards for prisoner liv-  
23   ing space and other prison conditions that are established  
24   by recognized prison accreditation agencies, but may fail  
25   to meet any such standards when, in the judgment of pris-

1 on officials, overcrowding, financial strain, prison size, ab-  
2 sence of on-site facilities, or other circumstances make it  
3 necessary to do so.

4 “(b) SPECIFIC STANDARDS.—Each Federal prison  
5 shall observe the following rules:

6 “(1) MANUAL LABOR.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Prisoners shall spend  
8 a minimum of 10 hours per day 6 days a week  
9 doing manual labor, such as—

10 “(i) trash collection along Federal  
11 highways and on Federal lands, including  
12 national parks;

13 “(ii) unskilled manual labor, digging  
14 ditches, breaking rocks, manually cutting  
15 grass, or other menial work; or

16 “(iii) whatever work is deemed nec-  
17 essary and appropriate at the discretion of  
18 the warden.

19 “(B) DISPLACEMENT.—Labor under this  
20 paragraph shall not result in the displacement  
21 of privately employed workers.

22 “(2) CHAIN GANGS.—Chain gangs may be used  
23 to satisfy the inmates, but in no case shall inmates  
24 currently or previously sentenced for a crime of vio-  
25 lence or a sex offense be eligible for a chain gang

1 to satisfy such requirement. For the purposes of car-  
2 rying out this paragraph, wardens or administrators  
3 of the Federal system may handcuff, shackle, detain,  
4 or immobilize inmates as necessary to protect the  
5 safety of prison personnel and the public.

6 “(3) NUTRITION.—Federal prisoners shall re-  
7 ceive no more than 3 meals per day. Each meal  
8 must not exceed minimum nutritional guidelines re-  
9 quired under the Constitution.

10 “(4) EXERCISE.—There shall be an area of ap-  
11 propriate size for exercise, running, calisthenics, and  
12 related activities. Machine exercise equipment, bar-  
13 bells, dumbbells, free weights, treadmills,  
14 stairmasters, and other exercise equipment is  
15 banned. All Federal prison athletic and body build-  
16 ing equipment shall be donated by the prison au-  
17 thorities to appropriate public agencies, such as  
18 community schools or recreation centers.

19 “(5) MEDIA.—Media shall be limited by prison  
20 officials to education, vocational training, and other  
21 matter that emphasizes standards of morality, re-  
22 sponsibility, self-control, and respect for law abiding  
23 Americans.

24 “(6) AMENITIES.—Amenities, regardless of the  
25 source of their financing, such as catered meals, fea-

1       ture films, lounges, pool tables, hot plates, micro-  
2       waves, and radios shall not be provided.

3       “(c) CONSTRUCTION.—This section shall not be con-  
4       strued to permit any violation of the Constitution of the  
5       United States.”.

6       (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
7       at the beginning of chapter 301 of title 18, United States  
8       Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new  
9       item:

“4014. Federal prison standards.”.

